

REMARKS

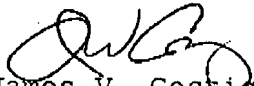
In response to the restriction requirement, the applicants elect Group I, claims 1-14 and 30-34, with traverse. The language of 35 U.S.C. §121 requires that the alleged inventions separate inventions in a patent application must be independent and distinct. Since this has not been alleged or shown, it is requested that this requirement be withdrawn.

In response to the requirement to elect a single biologically active agent for the inner zone and the outer zone, the applicant elects, as the single biologically active agent for both the inner and outer zones, ibuprofen with traverse. The applicant elects, as a single specific polymer for both the inner and outer zones, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, with traverse.

The species requirement has ignored the fact that claim 1 does not require the presence of any polymer in either the inner or outer zone and only requires the presence of a biologically active agent in the inner zone. For these reasons, it is requested that the species requirement be withdrawn.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


James V. Costigan
Registration No. 25,669

Hedman & Costigan, P.C.
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
(212) 302-8989